

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously presented), (cancelled), (withdrawn), or (new).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A security information mediation apparatus connected between a first terminal at an information contributor and a second terminal at an information recipient, the security information mediation apparatus comprising:

a first receiving unit which receives security information from the first terminal;

a first registering unit which registers the security information in a first database
~~presented from an information contributor's terminal;~~

a first transfer unit which receives the security information from the first registering unit
and transfers the security information registered by said the first registering unit to the second
~~said information recipient's terminal for the information recipient to judge judging the usefulness~~
of the security information;

a second receiving unit which receives the at least reply information including showing
the usefulness of the security information ~~and the payment information about payment of the~~
~~information presentation fee of the corresponding to the security information from the second~~
~~said information recipient's terminal; and~~

a second registering unit which registers at least the reply information in a second
database; and

a second transfer unit which receives at least the reply information from the second
registering unit and transfers the reply information and payment information to the first said
~~information contributor's terminal; terminal, wherein~~

when the information recipient finds that the security information has usefulness, the
second receiving unit receives payment information on an information presentation fee to be
paid to the information contributor from the second terminal, the second registering unit registers

the payment information together with the reply information, and the second transfer unit transfers the payment information together with the reply information to the first terminal.

2. (Currently Amended) The security information mediation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first registering unit refers to the registered security information in the first database, and registers ~~this~~ the security information from the first terminal in the first database only if the ~~presented~~ security information from the first terminal is new, and said first transfer unit transfers the security information from the first terminal to ~~said information recipient's~~ the second terminal only if the ~~presented~~ security information from the first terminal is new.

3. (Currently Amended) The security information mediation apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a classification information registering unit which registers ~~the~~ classification information of the security information desired by the information recipient; and

a classification unit which classifies the security information ~~presented from said information contributor's~~ the first terminal,

wherein said first transfer unit transfers the security information to ~~said information recipient's~~ the second terminal only if the classification information and classification result of said classification unit coincide.

4. (Currently Amended) The security information mediation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the second receiving unit receives invalidity information showing invalidity of the security information from ~~said information recipient's~~ the second terminal, and said second transfer unit transfers the invalidity information to ~~said information contributor's~~ the first terminal.

5. (Currently Amended) The security information mediation apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the second receiving unit receives, from the second terminal, correction information as a measure for the security information of which usefulness is shown and said second transfer unit transfers the correction information to ~~said information contributor's~~ the first terminal.

6. (Currently Amended) The security information mediation apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a disclosing unit which discloses the security information registered by said ~~the first~~ registering unit.

7. (Currently Amended) The security information mediation apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a disclosing unit which discloses the security information registered by said ~~the first~~ registering unit and the correction information.

8. (Currently Amended) A security information mediation method comprising:
a first receiving step of receiving security information from a first terminal at an information contributor;

a first registering step of registering the security information in a first database presented from the information contributor's terminal;

a first transfer step of receiving the security information registered at the first registering step and transferring the security information registered at the first registering step to said information recipient's a second terminal at an information recipient for judging the usefulness of the security information;

a second receiving step of receiving the at least reply information showing including the usefulness of the security information and the payment information about payment of the information presentation fee of the corresponding to the security information from said information recipient's the second terminal; and

a second registering step of registering at least the reply information in a second database; and

a second transfer step of receiving at least the reply information and transferring the reply information and payment information to the information contributor's terminal. first terminal, wherein

when the information recipient finds that the security information has usefulness, the second receiving step includes receiving payment information on an information presentation fee to be paid to the information contributor from the second terminal, the second registering step includes registering the payment information together with the reply information, and the second

transfer step includes transferring the payment information together with the reply information to the first terminal.

9. (Currently Amended) The security information mediation method according to claim 8, wherein the first registering step ~~refers-~~ includes referring to the registered security information in the first database, and ~~registers this-~~ registering the security information from the first terminal only if the ~~presented~~ security information from the first terminal is new, and the first transfer step ~~transfers-~~ includes transferring the security information ~~to said information recipient's~~ from the first terminal to the second terminal only if the ~~presented~~ security information from the first terminal is new.

10. (Currently Amended) The security information mediation method according to claim 8, further comprising:

a classification information registering step of registering ~~the~~ classification information of the security information desired by the information recipient; and

a classification step of classifying the security information ~~presented from the information contributor's-~~ first terminal,

wherein the first transfer step ~~transfers-~~ includes transferring the security information to the ~~information recipient's-~~ second terminal only if the classification information and classification result at the classification step coincide.

11. (Currently Amended) The security information mediation method according to claim 8, wherein the second receiving step ~~receives-~~ includes receiving invalidity information showing invalidity of the security information from ~~said information recipient's-~~ the second terminal, and the second transfer step transfers the invalidity information to ~~said information contributor's-~~ the first terminal.

12. (Currently Amended) The security information mediation method according to claim 8, wherein the second receiving step ~~receives-~~ includes receiving from the second terminal, correction information as a measure for the security information of which usefulness is shown and the second transfer step ~~transfers-~~ includes transferring the correction information to

~~said information contributor's~~ the first terminal.

13. (Currently Amended) The security information mediation method according to claim 8, further comprising a disclosing step of disclosing the security information registered at the first registering step.

14. (Currently Amended) The security information mediation method according to claim 12, further comprising a disclosing step of disclosing the security information registered at the first registering step and the correction information.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for storing instructions, which when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform:

a first receiving step of receiving security information from a first terminal at an information contributor;

a first registering step of registering the security information presented from the information contributor's terminal in a first database;

a first transfer step of receiving the security information registered at the first registering step and transferring the security information registered at the first registering step to said information recipient's a second terminal at an information recipient for judging the usefulness of the security information;

a second receiving step of receiving the at least reply information showing including the usefulness of the security information and the payment information about payment of the information presentation fee of the corresponding to the security information from said information recipient's the second terminal; and

a second registering step of registering at least the reply information in a second database; and

a second transfer step of receiving at least the reply information registered at the second registering step and transferring the reply information and payment information registered at the second registering step to the information contributor's terminal. first terminal, wherein

when the information recipient finds that the security information has usefulness, the second receiving step includes receiving payment information on an information presentation fee

to be paid to the information contributor from the second terminal, the second registering step includes registering the payment information together with the reply information, and the second transfer step includes transferring the payment information together with the reply information to the first terminal.